

GENERAL NOTES

**Summer occurrence of Holboell's Grebe in Ohio.**—On the morning of August 9, 1943, a Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus grisegena holbölli*) was seen feeding in one of the large ponds at State Fish Farm No. 1, Auglaize County, Ohio. The grebe remained on the pond four days, but was then shot as a fish predator. The Farm is near the eastern shore of Lake St. Marys, and the bird was probably first attracted to the larger body of water.

The specimen has been placed in the collection of the Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources. It was a male, in molt, and its stomach contained one crayfish (probably *Orconectes i. immunis*), 6 cm. in length, and a mass of its own feathers. No signs of injury were present.

I am aware of no previous record of the species summering in Ohio, but according to Trautman ("Birds of Buckeye Lake, Ohio," 1940:156-157, and *in litt.*), it is apparently an uncommon transient throughout the state.—CLARENCE F. CLARK, *Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources, St. Marys, Ohio.*

**The American Egret breeding in Ohio.**—The first sizable invasion of Ohio by American Egrets (*Casmerodius alba egretta*) occurred during the summer of 1930 (July 17 to October 14), when reports received of 755 individuals representing occurrences in 47 counties, indicated that probably at least 3,000 egrets reached the state (Hicks, *Wils. Bull.*, 43, 1931:268-281). Since then a considerable number of egrets has been present each summer, and in several years their numbers have approached or perhaps exceeded the 1930 population.

Until after 1930 there were no known occurrences of American Egrets during spring or early summer—nearly all records falling after July 10, with a few individuals tarrying into November or even early December. Each year since 1930 American Egrets have been reported during the breeding season (2 to 16 individuals in one to five localities). The earliest arrival date was March 16 (1934, at Grand Reservoir, Mercer County), although most of the birds have appeared in mid- or late April, or during May, and remained through June and July, when their identity was lost in the regular late summer invasion. During 13 of the last 14 years (1931-1944) I have recorded a total of 39 egrets in 9 localities, all before July 1. Including reports contributed by other observers, egrets seen during the breeding seasons totalled 64 (in 14 localities). These breeding season records were mostly in western and northern Ohio. They were confined to counties in which the other two large herons breed (there are 33 counties with a total of 61 Great Blue Heron colonies, and 15 counties with a total of 19 Black-crowned Night Heron colonies). Except for the breeding records listed below, association of egrets with these two herons has been very limited.

In 1939 a pair of American Egrets was reported by members of the Winnous Point Duck Club to be present along with Great Blue Herons in a sizable herony on Eagle Island in Sandusky Bay, Ottawa County. Accordingly I checked this colony the next year and on May 18, 1940, collected a set of 4 fresh eggs of the egret. These, now in the Ohio State Museum collection, represent the first Ohio breeding record. In 1941, two pairs of egrets were present, but only one nest was found. On the last visit of the season (July 5) this contained three large young. In 1942 no egrets were present at this colony, but another pair had a nest with four young in a small, newly established colony of Black-crowned Night Herons located near the south shore of Grand Reservoir, Mercer County.

Little publicity was given to these finds in the hope that freedom from disturbance would encourage more extensive nestings. A few egrets were present elsewhere in Ohio during the 1943 and 1944 breeding seasons, but difficulties of transportation have made it impossible to check on any new developments.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*